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November 22, 2013

235114

Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No. 2)
395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Office of Proceedings
November 21, 2013
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RE: Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee Vacancy

Please accept this as my expression of interest as a candidate for the vacancy on the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC) for a representative of an electric utility.

The following information is provided pursuant to the Notice of Vacancy.

- 1) Name of candidate:
 - John R. Soethe
- 2) Interest the candidate will represent:
 - Electric Utility
- 3) Summary of the candidate's experience and qualifications for the experience:
 - 28 years of utility experience increasing responsibilities in the areas of Fuels, System Design & Construction, Engineering, Rates and Corporate Pricing and Customer Service. Currently the Director of Fuels for Salt River Project (SRP) with responsibilities for the negotiation and administration of fuel and fuel related contracts; including the transportation and delivery of coal via rail.
 - Nine years of utility rate making experience including managing SRP's Rates and Corporate Pricing Department during Arizona's transition to deregulate.
 - Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering.
 - Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Arizona.
 - Please see attached resume for additional experience and qualifications.
- 4) A representation that the candidate is willing to serve as a member of RETAC.
 - I am willing to serve as a member of RETAC.
- 5) A representation that the candidate is not a federally registered lobbyist.
 - I am not a federally registered lobbyist.

Sincerely,
John R. Soethe, P.E.
Fuels Director, Salt River Project

JOHN R. SOETHE, P.E.

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SUMMARY STATEMENT

Utility Executive with more than 25 years of experience and increasing responsibility in the areas of Fuels, Rates & Corporate Pricing, Customer Service, Transmission Planning and System Design & Construction. Able to develop and implement breakthrough strategies and manage business segments to deliver continuous improvements in productivity, quality, customer service and value.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Salt River Project – Phoenix, Az.

Director, Fuels (2012 - Present)

Direct a staff of seven in the negotiation, execution and administration of contracts for the procurement of fuel and fuel related services for SRP's power plants. Fuel and fuel related services represent an annual expense of approximately \$800MM and includes coal, natural gas, uranium, diesel, gas transportation and rail services.

- Successfully negotiated a three year, \$150MM coal contract for a major SRP power plant.
- Lead for the extension of a major coal supply agreement for the life extension of the plant.
- Direct staff in day to day operations.
- Work with fuel suppliers and transportation suppliers to address issues with quality, supply, price and service.
- Manage departmental budgets. Review and approval all fuel and fuel related invoices.

Director, System Design & Construction (2007 - 2012)

Directed a staff of 150 professional, paraprofessional and hourly employees in the Design and Construction of 500kV, 230kV and 69kV power lines and substations. Managed a \$42MM corporate capital budget and a \$1.4MM operating budget. Negotiated and executed agreements and oversaw design and construction of CIAC funded projects in excess of \$30MM.

- Major projects included: Bay additions in the Palo Verde and Hassayampa 500kV switchyards to support interconnections for renewable projects; a 90 circuit mile project of 500kV and 230kV lines to interconnect new gas fired generation; installation of new 500/230kV transformation; two new 230kV receiving stations; an 18 mile upgrade of an existing 230kV line in rugged terrain; multiple dedicated substations for industrial customers; over 25 new 69/12kV substations/expansions and associated 69kV line additions/upgrades.
- Successfully redeployed and retrained hourly employees in response to changing workloads.
- Developed and implemented management tools to enhance quality and improve productivity.
- Coordinated with Customer Services, System Operations, Maintenance, System Planning, and other areas to ensure work was completed in time to meet system or customer needs.
- Improved the working relationship with the IBEW Business Manager and staff.
- Member/Secretary for the *Palo Verde Switchyard / Transmission System Engineering and Operating Committee*. Prepared and tracked all capital budget items; coordinated member approvals; prepared meeting agendas and project reports; coordinated activities with Construction and Maintenance crews, System Operations and System Planning.

Manager, Revenue Cycle Services (2001 - 2007)

Responsible for all aspects of the Revenue Cycle including Metering, Meter Reading, Field Services, Billing, Revenue Protection & Recovery, SRP's prepayment program (M-Power) and SRP's SmartMeter program. Total staff of 375 professional, paraprofessional and hourly employees. Developed and administered budgets of \$65MM operating and \$14MM capital.

- Delivered year over year productivity improvements in all areas of the Revenue Cycle function while driving customer service levels to all time highs. SRP's commitment to customer service is evidenced by the 19 J.D. Power and Associates awards for customer satisfaction (more than any other utility in North America).
- Grew SRP's prepay program from 8,000 customers to over 55,000 customers resulting in the largest prepay program in North America. Helped identify and worked with new meter manufacturers and new vending solution manufacturers in the development of next generation meters and vending solutions. Ensured viability and customer acceptance of the program.
- Conceptualized, developed and implemented the business case for SRP's SmartMeter program. Successfully deployed the largest mesh network in the world and leveraged daily meter data to fully automate meter reading and field service activities. Served as Business Process Manager for interfacing the SmartMeter system with the Customer Information System. Worked with the IBEW to retrain and redeploy Meter Readers to minimize labor impacts while still realizing significant cost, business process and customer benefits. In 2008, SRP was presented with the Best Smart Grid Project Award by POWERGRID International for ingenuity, scope, practicality, vision and follow through. The strategic value of the SmartMeter program is evidenced by a reduction of more than 500,000 man-hours and more than 2 million driving miles.

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Manager, Corporate Pricing (1997 - 2001)

Responsible for development, implementation and administration of all retail electric rates, service fees and corporate pricing strategies. Directed a staff of 15 in the successful development and implementation of SRP's first-ever functional unbundling of electric rates in response to retail competition. Prepared cost-of-capital calculations, defended debt ratios and "stranded costs", presented recommendations to SRP's Board and promoted these recommendations with potential competitors, customers and other stakeholders. Served as Vice-Chair and Chair for the Pricing and Market Analysis Committee of the American Public Power Association (2002 and 2003).

Financial Analyst, Corporate Pricing (1992 – 1997)

Responsible for development, implementation and maintenance of large industrial rates. Developed SRP's first ever service level rate structure to better align prices with costs and reduce price risk. Responded to industrial and commercial customer inquiries regarding rates and rate structures.

Electrical Engineer, Power System Analysis (1986 – 1992)

Successfully conducted powerflow and stability studies for the systematic expansion of SRP's transmission system. Lead engineer for major projects including the 400 mile Phoenix-Mead-Adelanto 500kV transmission line. SRP's representative to the WSCC System Review Work Group. Served as WSCC Area Coordinator: 1989 -1991.

Texas A&M University - College Station, Texas

Research Assistant, Department of Electrical Engineering (1984 – 1985)

Investigated the effect of non-linear governor droop and the effects on system operations. Prepared proposals for federal grants and developed software to model governor droop.

Bechtel Construction Company, Phoenix, Az.

Field Engineer, Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (1982 – 1984)

Developed work orders for the installation of power, control and communication cabling. Supervised electricians during installation of cable.

Education/Professional Associations

MSEE, Texas A&M University

BSEE, University of Illinois

Professional Engineer - State of Arizona.

IEEE – Member

Publications

The Effect of Co-Generation on System Reliability Indices; MSEE Thesis. Texas A&M University, Dec, 1985

Alternative Generation Reliability Models; IEEE Transactions on Power Systems and Reliability, Feb, 1987, pp 108-114, John R. Soethe, A.D. Patton

Community

Mesa United Way: Board Member (2006 – present), Community Investment Chair (allocates agency funding, 2008 – 2013), Executive Committee Member (2008 – 2013), Strategic Planning Committee (2008 – 2013).

Boy Scouts of America: Committee Member, Troop 301, Mesa, AZ (2006-2010); Advancement Chair (2006 – 2007).

Boy Scouts of America (2007-present): Developed an Electricity Merit Badge Clinic with sponsorship from SRP. Continue to coordinate volunteers and teach the clinic three times a year. To date, 630 scouts have earned the Electricity Merit Badge as a result of this clinic. Recipient of SRP's 2012 President's Volunteer Spirit Award as a result of the success of the clinics.